## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W

-----250602Z 084559 /12

R 241311Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9478

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 2189

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PSOE CONTINUES TO HAMMER AWAY AT SUAREZ

REF: MADRID 2147

1. IN THE WAKE OF NEWSPAPER EDITIRIALS (REF)
EXHORTING SUAREZ TO STAY ABOVE THE ELECTORAL FRAY
FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY, AND REITERATING THEMES ALREADY
SOUNDED BY THE PSOE LEADERSHIP, PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ
YESTERDAY USED THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF A BOOK ON THE
PARTY'S DECEMBER CONGRESS AS A PLATFORM TO LIGHT INTO THE
GOVT ONCE AGAIN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF A ATTEMPT TO ENGINEER
THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. GONZALEZ, INTER ALIA
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MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

"WE DO NOT CARE WHO RUNS IN THE LEECTIONS ONLY THAT THE INSTRUMENTS OF (GOVERNMENTAL) POWER NOT BE USED TO STIFLE THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE."

THERE IS A GROWING DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THE GOVT AND OF THE MONARCHY. IF THE KING SEEKS TO ESATABLISH A DURABLE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, HE MUST DO EVERYTHING HE

CAN TO KEEP THE PROCESS MOVING TOWARD A CLEAN ELECTORAL CONTEST.

2. COMMENT: BY CONTUINING ON THIS TACK. THE PSOE HOPES TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON SUAREZ TO PREVENT HIM FROM ADOPTING A HIGHLY PARTISAN POSTURE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND POINTED REMINDERS TO THEKING ABOUT THE NATURE OF HIS "TRU" INTEREST ARE MUCH A PART OF THIS EFFORT. GONZALEZ' STATEMENT ANOUT NOT CARING WHO RUNS IN THE ELECTIONS APPEARS TO PLACE HIM IN LINE WITH OTTHER POLITICAL LEADERS, SUCH AS RUIZ GIMENEZ WHO HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR "UNDERSTANDING THAT SUARES MIGHT DESIRE TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS AN INDEPENDENT FROMHIS HOME PROVINCE OF AVILA IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A POPULAR MADATE AND A LOWER HOUSE SEAT. BUT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS FOR HIM TO ALIGN HIMSELF WITH A PARTICULAR POLITICAL OPTION. EVEN. SO THE PSOE AT LEAST AS WELL AS FRANFA'S ALIANZA POPULAR, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WOULD

STRONGLY PREFER THAT SUAREZ STAY OUT OF THE CONTEST ALTOGETHER. EATON  $\,$ 

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## Message Attributes

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